

**METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR SEARCHING UNSTRUCTURED  
DATA STORED IN A DATABASE****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of and system for searching unstructured data stored in a database. In one embodiment the method comprises storing a plurality of electronic records in a common repository of electronic records in the database that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the system where each electronic record comprises unstructured data stored in a character large-object (CLOB) format in a column of a table of the database; creating a security protocol that protects the electronic records against unauthorized access; and creating a query designed to identify electronic records in the database that meet criteria designated in the query. The method further comprises modifying the query in accordance with the security protocol to create a modified query prior to executing the query and running the modified query against the unstructured data. In one particular implementation, the unstructured data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the database.

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